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Senate

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Mighty God, thank You for Your great compassion that removes our guilt and purifies us from transgressions. As our lawmakers and those who work with them face the challenges to liberty, give them light for their path and courage to live for You. Lord, enrich them with the durable satisfaction that comes from doing Your will. In their attitudes and expressions, remind them that those who are slow to anger are better than the mighty. Give them courage to passionately seek the truth and the reverence to follow Your light that illuminates their path.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 10, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following any leader remarks there will be a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

There will be no rollcall votes during today's session of the Senate. However, I hope we will be able to extend the trade adjustment assistance legislation today.

Senators should expect the next series of votes to begin at 5:30 p.m. on Monday. We hope to have as many as three votes on Monday starting at 5:30.

CUTTING GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. REID. Madam President, saying you want to cut government spending is an easy applause line. We all want to lower the deficit. We all wish Americans had less debt sitting in the treasuries of other countries. None of us wants to leave the most difficult decisions to the next generation. They deserve better from us.

But actually figuring out what and where to cut is the hard work. That is an entirely different story. The American people do not need to hear an applause line. They need us to ease the burden on our Nation's bottom line, and there is a fine line between doing so responsibly and recklessly.

It is our job to do that hard work, to figure out what and where to cut, to do the math carefully and practically and with common sense. It is our responsibility to remember we are not just taking numbers off a ledger. In many cases, these proposals may mean taking workers off the assembly line, taking teachers out of the classroom or police officers off the street.

I want to talk about taking police officers off the street. In the Republicans' haste to make as many cuts as possible, they have proposed eliminating the COPS hiring program. COPS stands for Community Oriented Policing Services, and it has helped put thousands and thousands of police officers and sheriffs on patrol around the country, about 450 of them in Nevada.

Under the Republican plan, many could lose those jobs and many more who want to join the force will not be able to. The COPS program also helps our law enforcement departments afford the computers and communications equipment they need to do their jobs. These jobs are keeping us safe. So cutting COPS does not just put them at risk, it puts all of us at risk.

This is not the kind of investment we gain from losing. This extreme plan does nothing to grow our economy or keep us competitive. It does not make our future more secure; it makes our neighborhoods less so. We have to cut responsibly. That is not the kind of cut we have talked about, wiping out the COPS program. We cannot support that.

When we talk about cutting government waste and excess, this is what we mean, among other things. We mean eliminating handouts to oil companies that are already making record profits. We mean cutting billions in wasteful Pentagon spending to contractors such as Halliburton. It means stopping the government giveaways to companies that ship American jobs overseas. These are commonsense cuts and a good place to start the conversation.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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